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4 FEB 04

Date

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

Serial No.: 09/702,493
Filed: October 31, 2000

Group Art Unit: 3754

Confirmation No.: 9829

Examiner: Eric Keasel

Applicant: Peter W. Estelle

Title: SELF ADJUSTING SOLENOID DRIVER AND METHOD

Atty Docket No. NOR-937

FEB 09 2004

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

REPLY

This Reply is submitted in compliance with the one month response period to Patent Office Paper No. 23 dated January 13, 2004. Applicant submitted a Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement on November 24, 2003 in which a French language reference Publication No. 2,635,991 was cited. That French Publication No. 2,635,991 was cited by the Swedish Patent Office during prosecution of a Swedish patent application corresponding to the above-identified U.S. application. The French Publication No. 2,635,991 was brought to Applicant's attention via a letter from a Swedish associate in which the reference was characterized as follows:

FR 2 635 991 (D2) describes a method of intermittently controlling an electric-control apparatus. It is characterized in that at least one so-called main capacitive element is provided, and this main capacitive element is progressively charged by periodically applying, between its terminals, a voltage substantially equal to that at which the apparatus operates.

BEST AVAILABLE C

The French language reference is purported to represent the state of the art disclosed in the application.

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